

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) Device for milking animals, comprising at least one milking stall with means (1, 2, 3) for extracting milk, means (3, 4) for de-aerating the milk which has been extracted and means (6) for conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank (11) for storage for a prolonged period, characterized in that the storage volume (12) of the milk tank (11) is a closed chamber [with] having a variable storage volume which corresponds to the volume of the milk stored in the milk tank (11) such that substantially no empty space is present in the closed chamber.

3. (Twice Amended) Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the milk tank is positioned in a cooled environment [and is provided with cool walls].

7. (Twice Amended) Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the flexible wall of the milk tank (11) is positioned in a receptacle (30) for supporting the flexible wall[s] (31).

15. (Amended) Device according to claim 14, characterized in that the device comprises a plurality of milk tanks [(11) which are all provided with] each having a signaling means coupled to a switchable valve [which is coupled to the signaling means].

16. (Amended) Device according to claim 1 comprising a milking line (104) between [the] a milking cup[s (101)] and a [storage] milk tank [(117, 118, 119, 120)], a discharge line (103) between the milking cup[s (101)] and a discharge vessel (116) for the purpose of discharging cleaning liquid or first contaminated milk, and a control system (108) and further characterized in that the device comprises at least two milk

tanks [(117, 118, 119, 120)] which can be connected to the milking line (104) and switching means (112, 113) connected to the control system (108), for connecting the milking line (104) to one of the milk tanks.

22. (Twice Amended) Method for milking animals comprising: [using a device for milking animals wherein at least one milking stall has means (1, 2, 3) for] extracting milk from an animal in a milking stall; [,means (3, 4) for] de-aerating the milk which has been extracted; [and means (6) for] conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank with a variable storage volume; [(11) for storage] storing in said milk tank for a prolonged period; and transporting the milk tank for further processing[, and wherein the milk is transported within a closed chamber inside the milk tank to a remote site where the milk is discharged from the milk tank, the improvement comprising the step, characterized in that, after the milk tank (11) has been emptied the closed chamber (12) is connected to subatmospheric pressure in order to reduce the storage volume of the closed chamber].